

**Please amend claims 1- 3 as follows.**

1. **(Amended)** A method for statistical multiplexing of ATM links, [having] comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of virtual connections, which transmit ATM cells via a connecting line, and providing [having] further incoming connections, [which are] each of which being assigned to one of a first class or a second class [(S, P)] depending on question criteria[.];

[characterized in that]

subdividing each of the first and the second classes [class (S, P) are subdivided] into further sub-classes [(S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>2</sub>, S<sub>3</sub>; P<sub>1</sub>, P<sub>2</sub>, P<sub>3</sub>).]<sub>i</sub> and

successively applying in steps the question criteria [criterion are applied successively in steps] to each of the sub-classes [(S<sub>1</sub>, S<sub>2</sub>, S<sub>3</sub>)] until one of a further incoming connection accepted in a sub-class, or all [the] sub-classes have been passed through.

2. **(Amended)** The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the question criteria are formed by linking transmission parameters of at least one of the connecting line [and/or of] and the connection.

3. **(Amended)** The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises storing at least one of [one of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the] transmission parameters and [and/or their] links thereof to one another [are stored] in a network node, and [are updated] updating the at least one of transmission parameters and links thereof when an ATM link is set up and/or cleared.